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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Saseno Island

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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Harbor

1. The Saseno Island harbor lies in a small bay on the northeastern shoulder of the island, and faces approximately northwest. The map reference is approximately L. 790551.
2. There are two breakwaters: a) the long western one of about 300 meters, of which the outer end is broken up and has not been repaired, leaving about 180 meters intact; and b) the short eastern one, of which the outer end is broken up and has not been repaired.
3. The width of the harbor is from 300 to 400 meters at its maximum. The depth of water is unknown.
4. There are two jetties: a) small T-shaped concrete jetty on concrete piles to the west center of the harbor, not now in use but in good condition; and b) small straight stone jetty to the east center, now in use. Jetty a) has no crane or lights. Jetty b) has a small crane, worked by hand, at the seaward end, and an electric light at each seaward corner. The road to the interior of the island leads from jetty b).
5. There is no general system of lighting in the harbor. Apart from the lights on the straight stone jetty, there is a light on the shore opposite this jetty and near the guard post.
6. There is a harbor light at the seaward end of each breakwater. These are steady lights and their color is changed every 15 days, according to a code, to white, red or green.
7. At the eastern end of the foreshore is a concrete building about 30 meters

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long, 8 meters wide and 3 meters high. From it projects into the water, on a stone base, a length of double railway-type rail, which could be a slipway for boats. The building is empty and has no cradle or other gear for shipbuilding or repairs and is not in use. There is no other shipbuilding or repair yard in the island.

8. Foreign shipping does not use the harbor. Small fishing boats tie up inside the western breakwater. Albanian coastal shipping boats occasionally shelter in the harbor from the weather.

Radio station

9. There is only one active radio station on the island. This is a military type station, with two small aerial masts, at the headquarters of the Coastal Artillery Group. This station works to the Coastal Artillery Brigade headquarters at Durres and to the Sarande Coastal Artillery Group.¹
10. At about 300 to 400 meters from the harbor and to the east of the road are 2 ironwork aerial type masts at some distance from each other, about 15 meters high. They are not connected by wires and are not now in use. It is believed that they were used for wireless purposes during the occupation of the Island.

Water supply

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11. There are no springs on the Island and the principal water supply for all purposes is rainwater.² Every building has a rainwater catchment tank. The main Artillery barracks has a large underground reservoir under the center of the building. All the principal catchment tanks on the hillside above the port are connected by pipes to a main reservoir about 250-300 meters from the harbor on the east side of the road.
12. During 1951 there was a case of typhoid among the garrison and all the water tanks were cleaned. Water was temporarily taken to the Island from Vlone, but this was an emergency measure and is not a normal practice.

Naval

13. One MAS type motor boat is based in Saseno harbor and is at the disposal of the garrison.³ It makes daily trips to Vlone harbor for supplies and tows a lighter. The boat mounts one 20 mm. automatic gun forward and is commanded by a naval aspirant and a naval crew consisting of 2 non-commissioned officers and 5 sailors. The crew normally sleep in the boat. Apart from its duties for the garrison, this boat is under the control of naval headquarters at Durres.

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14. [] the above motor boat was the only naval craft using Vlone port. The others, previously based there, had been withdrawn and were concentrated at Durres.⁴

15. At occasional and rare intervals one of the other MAS type boats based at Durres visits the Island.

16. [] all of the naval craft based at Durres spent some two months at Saseno harbor while engaged in exercises off the Albanian coast.

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17. In spite of rumors to the contrary which circulated in Albania, there was [] no submarine base at Saseno and no submarines were using the harbor. There were no construction works in progress at the port. There were no naval headquarters or barracks on the Island and no naval personnel other than the crew of the motor boat. The only military personnel were those of the coastal and antiaircraft artillery.

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Key to sketch

18. The following is the key to the attached sketch:

1. Western breakwater; shaded portion broken up.
2. Eastern breakwater; shaded portion broken up.
3. Disused T-shaped jetty.
4. Jetty now in use.
5. Old disused [] concrete building, with a length of railway type rail leading from the interior into the water. 50X1-HUM
6. Roads. 50X1-HUM
7. Guard post for port.
8. Old burned-out building []
9. Hospital.
10. Officers' family quarters.
11. Coastal Defense Artillery Group headquarters; the same building as formerly used [] as artillery headquarters. 50X1-HUM
12. Cinema.
13. Houses.
14. Food depot.
15. Artillery barracks occupied by the Coastal Artillery Group headquarters personnel.
16. Power station.
17. Main rainwater reservoir.
18. Disused W/T aerial masts.

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1.

2.

3.

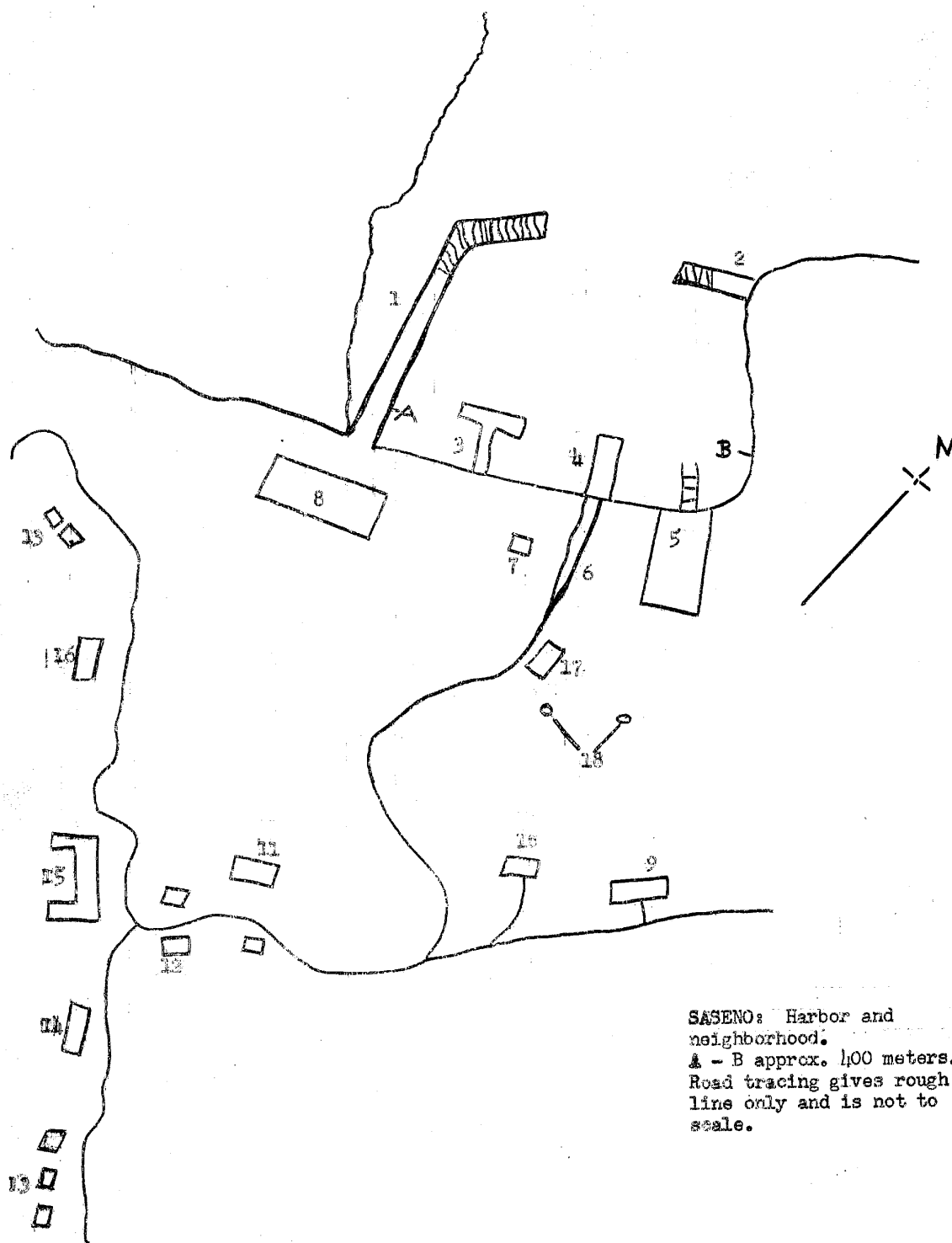
4.

Comments: According to other information judged reliable, three MAS type naval craft were based at Vloné. As these were used for patrols, they would not include the Sasenc craft. It would therefore seem that these three boats were returned to Vloné [] for patrol work

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SASENO: Harbor and neighborhood.
A - B approx. 400 meters.
Road tracing gives rough line only and is not to scale.

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